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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
State College, New Mexico

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

9-2-49
NO. 361

NEW MEXICO

WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

PRICE SUPPORT ANNOUNCED FOR PINTO BEANS - The U. S. Department of Agriculture recently announced the parity price for dry edible beans at \$8.19 per cwt. This makes the 1949 support price \$6.55 per cwt before adjustments for freight and differentials for classes and areas.

The support price for 1949 crop U. S. No. 1 pinto beans, cleaned and bagged in store at country shipping points with all charges except receiving charges, paid through April 30, 1950 in New Mexico are:

| | |
|--|--------|
| Rio Arriba, San Juan and Taos Counties | \$7.20 |
| McKinley and Valencia Counties | 7.28 |
| All other counties | 7.40 |

The Department announced in April that prices for 1949 crop dry edible beans would be supported at 80 percent of parity as of September 1, 1949 instead of 90 percent as in 1948.

Support will be made available to producers through loans and purchase agreements from time of harvest through January 31, 1950.

Beans not in approved storage, or not otherwise eligible for support, may be supported at a flat rate sufficiently below the full support rate to cover costs of processing the beans to grade.

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4000 WELLS FOR LIVESTOCK - New Mexico ranchers have developed over 4,000 wells for livestock water during the past ten years, according to A. D. Woofter, Member of the State PMA Committee. "This outstanding range development has been made possible through financial assistance offered under the Agricultural Conservation Program", Mr. Woofter stated. "This averages more than one well for each ranch in the state and consists on the average of a well for each ten thousand acres of state and privately-owned land in New Mexico," he continued. "As a result of this water development, livestock are being more evenly distributed over the range. Grasses

and other range forage suffer less overgrazing and meat production per animal is increased", Mr. Wooster concluded.

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PASTURES FOR PERMANENCY - Improving pastures is one of the best ways to build a permanent agriculture, says _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee. To balance farm production to market needs, more land in pastures and better care of these pastures is needed.

Mr. _____ emphasized that pastures should mean more than a piece of "waste land" surrounded by a few posts and couple of strands of barbed wire. Grass and legumes are crops from which a good income can be obtained if they are given the attention usually given to the "so called" cash crops.

Pasture improvement and grass and legume seeding practices are in the Agricultural Conservation Program because of their importance in conserving soil and water, the chairman explains. Grass and legumes send out a network of roots that hold the soil in place. Old roots die and new ones take their place. Dead roots are acted upon by bacteria, and other agents of decomposition, which release the plant food. And this decayed and decaying material acts as a sponge to absorb and hold rain water.

Mr. _____ points out that the establishment and improvement of pastures is being especially emphasized as a means of making the best use of the land taken out of tilled crops. Not only will the additional pasture help balance production but it will be building up reserves for future production. Properly handled, pastures build up the land instead of wearing it out. In most instances this will mean the use of lime, phosphate and often potash and boron. It will mean the use of improved strains of seed and proper grazing management.

As the chairman explains it, "Soil that is protected and improved by grass and legumes will continue to produce the food and fiber needed by consumers. That is why the Government provides assistance to farmers in establishing and improving pastures."

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KNOW YOUR ACP COMMITTEEMEN - Whether it's a gully or a Government loan on your _____ (crop) _____, a car-load of lime or a diversion terrace, "See Your ACP Committee" has become a slogan.

According to _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee, there are more than three thousand of these county committees in the United States. There is one in every agricultural county in the country. In addition there are some 84 thousand community committeemen.

In _____ county there are three county committeemen and _____ community committeemen. Each year elections are held and the farmers of each community have an opportunity to "put in" the farmers they want to serve as community committeemen. At the same time delegates are elected to attend a county convention where the county committee is elected.

Mr. _____, the present chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation (ACP) Committee, owns and operates a _____ acre farm located at _____.

(Note: Add details about his farm: Crops, how long on it, and other details - same for other members and alternates.)

These are the farmer-committeemen to see about conservation practices, crop loans, price supports, crop insurance, (add other programs), and the many other phases of FMA service to the farmers of _____ county.

The county office is located at _____.

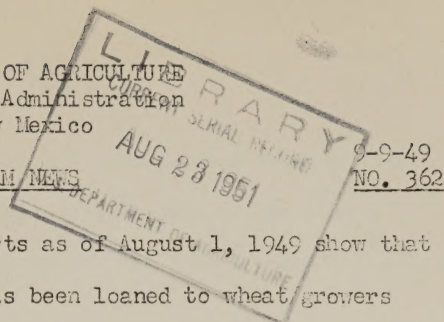
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NEW MEXICO

WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS



1949 CCC WHEAT LOAN PROGRAM - Incomplete reports as of August 1, 1949 show that over four and three-quarter million dollars has been loaned to wheat growers under the 1949 CCC Wheat Loan Program. There have been 84 farm-storage loans completed and nearly 15 hundred warehouse-stored loans as reported by eight wheat producing counties out of the possible twenty counties in the State where producers will avail themselves of wheat loans.

When all counties have reported the August 31 total for wheat, loans will probably exceed 6 million dollars.

Loans on farm and warehouse-stored wheat is a method used by Commodity Credit Corporation for assuring price support to eligible growers. A few of the other commodities produced in New Mexico for which loan programs are available are: Cotton, Cotton Seed, Grain Sorghums, Pinto Beans, Barley, Rye, Oats, and Alfalfa Seed.

Producers should contact the County ACA Office located at _____ for details concerning these programs.

Producers not needing a loan can assure themselves of price support by signing a Purchase Agreement with Commodity Credit Corporation.

(Note: Secretaries in major loan counties should add a paragraph on county loans.)

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CONSERVATION IS JOB FOR EVERYBODY, SAYS BRANNAN - Conservation is one of the tools which can help us reach the goal of agricultural abundance — efficiently produced, and distributed at prices fair to consumers and producers alike, Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan stated recently.

"I consider it so vital, so much a part of any realistic farm program, " the Secretary said, "that in my recommendations to Congress not so long ago I urged

the conditioning of price supports, wherever possible, upon observance of conservation and good land use practices. To me, it just doesn't seem to be common sense to give as much support to the farmer who abuses his land as may be earned by the farmer who conserves it...

"We dare not stop or slow down in our conservation efforts. Nor is there any reason for us to delay, within the limits of available facilities. We have a program through which technical assistance is provided directly to farmers in soil conservation districts; and we have a program through which public funds are provided to pay part of the cost of work done by farmers to protect or improve their soil and water resources.

"But it would be a mistake to conclude that conservation is a job only for farmers with the help of Government.

"To get the conservation job done, properly and in time, is going to take the continued best efforts and teamwork of everybody who has anything at all to contribute to the task -- farmers, bankers, machinery concerns, agricultural agencies and farm organizations, educators, press and radio, and many other interests...This cooperative conservation support is entirely proper, because the whole public interest is involved.

"None of us in the Nation can afford wasteful agricultural production or soil destruction. We are all affected by such waste...In the last analysis, every man, woman, and child depends for life on the fertility of the land. And the continuing fertility of the land, in turn, depends upon a great many economic and social factors...

"I believe that the connection between farm prices and conservation should be recognized in our price-support programs. For when farm prices collapse and the farmer faces a choice between starving his family or abusing his land, there isn't much doubt which course he will choose...

"The great progress that has been made in the practicing of soil conservation farming...is highly gratifying. But...the biggest part of the job still remains to be done -- and just being for conservation, or attending conservation field days, isn't going to get that job finished. We need, we must have, continued positive, undelayed action.

"The national and world situations today demand that we take care of our basic land resources. I am simply drawing upon the lessons of history when I say that our Nation will not long be a world leader if it permits those resources to deteriorate."

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NEW COTTON LEGISLATION ALSO AFFECTS WHEAT, PEANUTS - Important changes affecting cotton, wheat, and peanuts are provided in the amendment to the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, approved by the President on August 29, according to W. Leslie Martin, Chairman of the State Production and Marketing Administration Committee.

In general, the new legislation modernizes and makes more flexible the acreage allotment and marketing quota provisions of the 1938 act which affect the three crops, taking into consideration recent trends in farm production and practices.

Here are major provisions of the new amendment:

Cotton. -- Marketing quotas must be proclaimed by October 15 when the total supply more than exceeds the normal supply (instead of by more than 7 percent, as under the old law). The national acreage allotment in 1950 may not be less than 21 million acres, but after that the allotment may be adjusted to produce a national quota as low as the smaller of 10 million bales or 1 million bales less than the previous year's domestic consumption plus exports. (Under the old law, the allotment could not fall below about 27 million acres, because of minimum county and farm allotments.) The only diversion from cotton acreage recognized under the new law is cotton reduction because of increased plantings of war crops during 1945, 1946, and 1947.

The new legislation also provides for adjustment for trends in acreage, for basing allotments on yearly averages, and for increasing acreage reserves for States and setting up reserves for counties; makes no provision to take care of unused county allotments; gives the Secretary of Agriculture authority to put long-staple cotton under quotas whenever the total supply will exceed the normal supply by more than 8%; redefines a "farm marketing quota" to be the actual production of the acreage planted to cotton on the farm less the farm marketing excess; and changes the penalty rate on excess marketings to 50 percent of the cotton parity price as of June 15. (Generally, the "farm marketing excess" will be the amount by which the total production on the farm exceeds the normal production of the farm's acreage allotment.)

Wheat. -- Provides for a minimum farm acreage allotment of the larger of (1) the 1948 seeded acreage plus the land in fallow in 1948 which was in wheat in 1947, or (2) the 1949 seeded acreage plus the land in fallow in 1949 which was in wheat in 1948. This will make adjustment less severe in areas where wheat acreage has expanded in recent years.

Peanuts.-- The 1950 national peanut acreage allotment is established at not less than 2.1 million acres -- slightly higher than would have been permitted under the old act. Also provides for minimum State allotments.

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FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE EXPANSION AUTHORIZED - Another milestone was passed in the development of a sound all-risk Federal Crop Insurance program recently when President Truman signed into law legislation authorizing expansion in the number of counties in which the protection may be offered, the State Office of the Production and Marketing Administration in New Mexico said this week.

Under the amended legislation, a 50 percent increase is authorized each year for 1950, 1951, 1952 and 1953 over the number of counties in which the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation was authorized to operate in 1948 and 1949.

During these years the program was limited to 200 wheat counties, 56 cotton counties, 50 corn counties, 50 flax counties and 35 tobacco counties.

(If sales campaigns to qualify new counties are presently under way in your State, insert a descriptive paragraph here.)

"The pattern for the present program was set in 1948 when the level of protection was limited to the crop investment in the area," W. Leslie Martin, Chairman of the State FMA Committee points out. "The new legislation limits crop insurance on all commodities except tobacco to the period while the insured commodity is in the field. In the case of tobacco, where the value of the production cannot be adequately determined until the crop is cured, the investment protection now can be extended to the period while it is in the barn being readied for market."

The new legislation also authorizes an expansion in the "multiple crop plan" to 50 counties in 1950 and 25 counties each year through 1953. Under this plan, several crops are insured on one policy to enable the producer to protect the major portion of his crop investments at low cost. This program operated in two counties in 1948 and in seven in 1949.

The trial program for dry edible beans may be expanded to 20 counties in 1950 and 10 counties can be added each year through 1953.

"The program has now been developed to a point where in effect it operates as a county mutual crop insurance plan with each county determining through its own experience the cost of protection to its farmers," Mr. Martin explains. "Those individuals with outstanding experience from a risk standpoint receive additional credit through individual reductions in premiums."

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Production and Marketing Administration
State College, New Mexico

NEW MEXICO

WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

9-16-49

NO. 362

1950 ACP TO AID IN SOLVING CONSERVATION PROBLEMS

Any farmer of _____ county who has trouble holding the top-soil on his farm or in keeping up the fertility of his land may find that the Agricultural Conservation Program provides the assistance necessary to help solve the problem.

_____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee, says the 1950 Agricultural Conservation Program will be available soon. The 1950 program provides additional funds for use in assisting farmers in conserving the Nation's soil and water resources. The limit on the amount of assistance to an individual farmer has been increased from the \$750 for 1949 to \$2500 under the 1950 program.

Mr. _____ said that few farmers ever receive assistance amounting to \$2500 and that most farmers cooperating in the program receive less than \$_____. But this small amount of assistance often makes it possible for a farmer to carry out the conservation practices which keep his farm from going to pieces, and which start it on the way to becoming a better and more productive farm.

Because of the national interest in conserving soil and water as the source of the Nation's food and fiber supply, assistance is provided under ACP to farmers who cooperate in carrying out soil-saving and soil-building practices. Cooperating farmers have to put up their share of the cost of conserving practices. The average is about 50 percent of the "out-of-pocket" cost of the practice.

Through this program farmers and all the people, through the government, share in protecting the soil against erosion, in conserving water, and in building up the productivity of the land so that the Nation may continue to enjoy a balanced abundant production.

In this way, farmers are helping to strengthen the Nation and protect the welfare of its people, as well as to make their own life on the farm more secure, _____ said.

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MANY FARMERS GET REVISED WHEAT ALLOTMENTS - A number of _____ county wheat farmers have received 1950 wheat acreage allotments based on a recently passed amendment to the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, the County Agricultural Conservation Committee announced this week.

Although designed primarily to make the adjustment less severe in areas where wheat acreage has been expanded in recent years, the amendment will also affect the allotments on many other farms in other areas, _____, committee chairman points out.

"The new amendment does not decrease any farm allotments already established," the chairman explains. "Its effect is to determine a minimum acreage allotment for each farm. If the new minimum is less than the original allotment, no revision will be made. Revised allotment notices are being mailed only to those affected."

In general, the amendment provides for a minimum 1950 farm acreage allotment based on 50 percent of the larger of (1) the 1949 wheat acreage plus the land in fallow in 1949 on which wheat was seeded for harvest in 1948, or (2) the 1948 wheat acreage plus the land in fallow in 1948 on which wheat was seeded for harvest in 1947

This "base" is multiplied by a factor of 92.319 percent to obtain the minimum 1950 allotment. This factor represents the ratio between the 1950 national acreage allotment and the national average wheat seedings during the 10 calendar years 1939-1948, adjusted as required by the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938.

"The amendment also states that no acreage shall be included in the 'base' which is likely to become an undue erosion hazard under continued farming, " _____ explains. "This is intended to promote good farming practices and prevent the development of new 'dust-bowl' areas such as those due in part to the tremendous expansion of wheat acreage during and following the first world war."

COTTON PROSPECTS IMPROVE - Increases in prospective cotton production in Texas and Georgia during August more than offset declines in the Carolinas and Central Belt States, the crop reporting board of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics says in their forecast of conditions on September 1.

As a result, the 1949 crop is now estimated at 14,943,000 bales -- 138,000 bales more than the August 1 forecast and 75,000 bales more than last year's production.

The final outturn of cotton compared with this forecast will depend upon whether the various influences affecting the crop during the remainder of the season are more or less favorable than usual, the Board explains.

Texas prospects improved by 550,000 bales during August while Georgia is expected to produce 30,000 bales more than predicted on August 1. Decreases in prospective production by States compared with a month ago are: Virginia, 2,000 bales; North Carolina, 30,000 bales; South Carolina, 125,000 bales; Tennessee, 25,000; Alabama, 60,000; Mississippi, 150,000; and Arkansas, 50,000 bales. In all other States, prospects remain the same as forecast on August 1.

Texas also leads in total production with 5 million bales predicted. Arkansas with 1.6 million, Mississippi with 1.45 million, and California with 1.3 million bales follow in that order.

Cotton ginnings for the United States are reported by the Bureau of the Census at 1,247,443 running bales ginned from the crop of 1949 prior to September 1, compared with 1,444,355 bales for 1948 and 686,109 for 1947.

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'48 FARM REAL ESTATE TAXES HIGHER - Farm real estate taxes per acre in 1948 average about 8 percent higher than in 1947, according to a Department of Agriculture report. This is the fifth consecutive year in which the average for the country as a whole has risen. Taxes per acre were 175 percent greater than the 1909-13 average. The all-time high, reached in 1929, was 181 percent.

Taxes per \$100 of value increased in 1948 in more than three-fourths of the States. The U. S. trend reflects the fact that, generally speaking, taxes increased proportionately more than did values, and suggests that land values are losing their upward momentum whereas taxes continue to rise.

Increased taxes in most States are the result of a continuing demand for more and better public services, particularly schools and roads. In some counties in Tennessee, however, sales-tax funds, which became available for the first time during this period, enabled public officials to expand their school programs without increasing property taxes. In some cases, these funds made it possible actually to lower taxes.

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WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

RECORDS
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COTTON ACREAGE ADJUSTMENT DIFFICULT - County and Community ACA Committeemen in cotton counties are finding it extremely difficult to adjust farmers' cotton acreage reports to meet rigid limitations established by the Department of Agriculture, according to W. Leslie Martin, Chairman of the State PMA Committee. "Lack of definite acreage measurements of cotton produced during recent years has resulted in reported cotton acreages far in excess of official acreages as determined by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics," Mr. Martin observed. He expressed the hope that cotton farmers realize the difficulty of this task and will cooperate with the committeemen in every way possible. "I'm sure that all committeemen are making every possible effort to make these adjustments in a fair and impartial manner," Mr. Martin concluded.

* * *

FARMERS URGED TO REPORT DETERIORATING CROPS - To protect themselves from loss in settlement value, farmers are advised to report immediately to the County Agricultural Conservation Committee when any commodity under price-supporting loan is in danger of going out of condition.

"Since the farmer is responsible for maintaining the grade and quality of the commodity under loan, his eventual return depends upon the condition at the time of delivery to the Commodity Credit Corporation," _____, Committee Chairman, points out.

Where it is found that a commodity in danger of going out of condition cannot be satisfactorily conditioned, the county committee is authorized to call for immediate shipping instructions from CCC.

"To protect the farmer, samples will be taken at the time shipping instructions are requested, if shipping instructions cannot be furnished in time to prevent serious damage to the commodity," _____ says. "Final settlement

with the producer will then be made for the quantity delivered, based on the grade established from these samples."

If a producer fails to notify the county committee before a commodity has deteriorated to such an extent that it will fall below any grade for which loan or settlement values have been established, Mr. _____ said that the settlement value will be the support rate for the grade and quality of the commodity placed under loan, less the difference between (1) the market price for this grade and quality and (2) the market price of the commodity delivered, as determined by CCC.

The same procedure for determining settlement value of off-grade commodities may be applied to purchase agreements when authority to accept deliveries is given by CCC.

* * *

SETTLEMENT VALUES FOR COTTONSEED LOANS ANNOUNCED - Settlement values for cottonseed loans not redeemed by producers prior to maturity will be based on grades delivered to Commodity Credit Corporation, the _____ County Agricultural Conservation Committee said this week.

_____, Committee Chairman, points out that the loan rate of \$49.50 per ton is based on the average grade for the past 5 years, which was 97.7.

Since 100 is the "basic grade" and grades may range from 40 to 125, the settlement value of basic grade 100 will be \$50.65 per ton. The settlement value for cottonseed grading above or below basic grade 100 will be \$50.65 per ton plus or minus a percentage of such price equal to the percentage by which the grade is above or below 100.

"As an example, should a producer's cottonseed grade 60 at the time of delivery to CCC, the settlement value would be 60 percent of \$50.65 or \$30.39 per ton," _____ explains.

Price-supporting loans on cottonseed from the 1949 crop will be available through December 31, 1949 and will mature April 30, 1950, or earlier on demand.

Loans will be made on cottonseed with a moisture content of 11 percent or less placed in approved storage on or near the farm.

Growers interested in the loan should contact the county ACA office in ____.

* * *

DIVERTED ACRES AND ROTATIONS - The necessity of diverting some of the land which has been in (allotment crop or crops) to comply with acreage allotments provides the farmers of New Mexico with a real opportunity to improve their rotations, according to Thomas Roberts, member of the State Production and Marketing Administration Committee.

Neglect of good rotations was encouraged by the demands of war and the necessity for feeding starving people in other countries after the war. Instead of depending on sound rotation practices, farmers resorted to heavier use of commercial fertilizers. These have been effective in increasing yields and have helped to get record production.

But on too many farms this continuous cropping of the land -- growing the same crop year after year on the same land -- is depleting the humus. The vegetable matter in the land that helps to hold the soil particles together is being lost. The land is becoming a greater erosion hazard each year.

Mr. Roberts points out that too often this danger is hardly realized until a heavy rain carries away several inches of topsoil, and the land is left torn to pieces with gullies.

But where grass and legumes are grown on the land a few years, the humus is built up. The plowing under of a good growth of green manure does the same thing. Often the grass and legumes may be pastured and an income derived from them. With too much of the land in continuous cropping, the use of diverted acres to bring the farming operation more into balance will be a good thing for the farmers of _____, Mr. Roberts said.

He urged farmers to consider this phase of the allotment program and to take advantage of this opportunity to improve their farming operation with a more balanced rotation. Not only will the land be in good use, but the whole farm will be improved. Reserves will be stored in the soil for future production and not wasted on surplus crops now.

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NEW MEXICO

WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

ACA COMMITTEEN ELECTIONS - W. Leslie Martin, Chairman of the State PMA Committee, has announced that county and community elections of ACA committeemen will be held during October. Officers elected will assume their duties November 1, 1949.

According to Mr. Martin, community committeemen may be elected either by public election meetings or by secret mail ballot. Election by mail is being encouraged in order to give more farmers and ranchers an opportunity to vote without losing any time by attending election meetings.

In view of the momentous decisions facing committeemen this year in making crop acreage adjustments, Mr. Martin urges all eligible producers to cast their votes for the very best men available.

(County ACA Secretaries will describe here the method of election in their counties and the dates of community and county elections.)

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1950 ACP - It is almost time for farmers and ranchers to begin planning their Agricultural Conservation Programs for 1950. Mr. _____, Chairman of the _____ County Agricultural Conservation Association Committee has been notified by the State PMA Office that the 1950 Agricultural Conservation Program will be put into operation on November 1, 1949. Mr. _____ states that heretofore the program has always begun on January 1 of the applicable year. Mr. _____ explains that stepping the starting date up by 60 days will make it possible for the county committee to give prior approval under the 1950 program on many practices which the farmers and ranchers wish to carry out during November and December, 1949.

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ADDITIONAL ACTION CONSIDERED TO STRENGTHEN COTTONSEED PRICE SUPPORT PROGRAM - Ralph

S. Trigg, President of the Commodity Credit Corporation, U.S. Department of Agriculture, announced today that CCC is considering the possibility of augmenting the cottonseed farm storage loan price support program, announced first on July 27 and now in effect in cotton states, by utilizing and expanding storage facilities at gins and oil mills. Such storage facilities would be used for the storage of loan cottonseed, as well as cottonseed and cottonseed products to which the Commodity Credit Corporation might acquire title.

Under the program, CCC makes nonrecourse loans at 90 percent of parity on clean, safely-stored cottonseed having a moisture content of 11 percent or less. The loans, secured by chattel mortgages on the seed, are made on cottonseed stored on or off the farm.

As a first step in exploring the possibilities for augmenting present program operations, the Production and Marketing Administration will send representatives to the field to confer with representatives of cooperative processors regarding the availability of storage space and the feasibility of action which might be taken to make the present support program more effective.

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INVEST DIVERTED ACRES IN SECURITY - Farmers of _____ county who turn their diverted acres to a good conservation use may well be making one of the best possible investments in security.

In voicing this opinion, _____, chairman of the _____ County Agricultural Conservation Committee, pointed out that, by using the land taken out of _____ (applicable crop or crops) _____ for the building up of humus and fertility reserves, a farmer will be protecting the future productivity of his land, as well as protecting the price of this (these) crop (crops) by seeding within his allotment.

Furthermore, the chairman explains, in many instances shifting some of the acreage from (applicable crop) to grass and legumes may boost the farm income. The experience of many farmers indicates that grass and legumes used as pasture and hay are often more profitable than the cash crops which preceded them.

"Certainly, with supplies in excess of market demands and bins, cribs, and warehouse filling up, it would seem wise to adjust production by shifting the use of some of the land to commodities which are not in such excess," says the chairman. "And it is a real gain if in so doing the land can be built up so that it will become more productive in the future."

"With population in the United States increasing at the rate of 2 million a year, it may not be many years until the reserves we can build now may be needed to meet the needs of 170 million people instead of the 148 million people in this country now."

Mr. _____ said the Agricultural Conservation Program for 1950 will emphasize conservation practices which may be used to build up soil reserves on the land taken out of (applicable crop). He advises that information on financial assistance to help farmers in carrying out a number of these conservation practices is available at the County Agricultural Conservation Association office.

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PROPER GRAZING KEY TO RANGE CONSERVATION - Balancing the number of livestock with the carrying capacity of the range is the key to conservation of rangeland, says _____, Agricultural Conservation Program committeeman in charge of range conservation for _____ county.

Stockwater dams may be constructed for better distribution of livestock, fences may be built to provide better control of grazing, and the range may be re-seeded with adapted grasses, he said. If the range is overstocked, however, these measures lose much of their value in conserving soil and water.

The committeeman pointed out that it is the vegetative cover on the range that protects the soil, slows down the run-off, and protects the watershed against erosion and floods. If the vegetation is eaten off until it no longer can serve as a protection, the dams and fences and reseeding won't hold soil and water.

These practices are effective in conserving both soil and water when they are used along with proper grazing, Mr. _____ said that in arid range areas, grazing off more than 50 percent of the top growth of palatable grasses starts the range downhill. The palatable species are not able to reproduce themselves. And as these species die out and are replaced by less palatable species, the value of the range deteriorates.

Mr. _____ pointed out that some of the indicators of proper grazing are: Abundant litter between plants, topsoil intact and unbroken, gullies healing, little or no soil drifting, no places where the topsoil is worn through, and clear run-off water and no dust when the wind blows. Another practical indicator is the condition of the livestock. Thriving livestock usually indicate properly grazed range.

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